

JUDGE BLAMES CRAMPED QUARTERS

Statis Item
3/21/67

Bar Press at Andrews Arraignment

Newsman will be barred from tomorrow's arraignment proceedings for former Jefferson Parish Assistant District Attorney Dean A. Andrews Jr., the presiding judge said today.

Criminal District Judge Frank J. Shea said that because of the cramped quarters in which he operates he will have to exclude members of the press and other interested spectators.

Andrews, indicted by the Orleans Parish Grand Jury on a perjury charge, is scheduled to appear in court at 10:30 a. m.

THE CHARGE AGAINST Andrews has attracted wide attention because it arose out of his questioning in connection with District Attorney Jim Garrison's probe of the slaying of President John F. Kennedy.

Judge Shea said he was not "attempting to be unreasonable with members of the press." He said that on a normal jury day his courtroom is so crowded that members of the jury venire have to stand up in his chambers.

The judge said he was barring cameramen, photographers and all electronic devices from the third floor of the court building, where his courtroom is located. He said he had no objection to cameramen being on the second floor.

A R R A I G N M E N T PROCEEDINGS are normally brief.

Andrews testified before the grand jury twice in connection with the Kennedy probe. The

specific basis of the perjury charge against him was not disclosed.

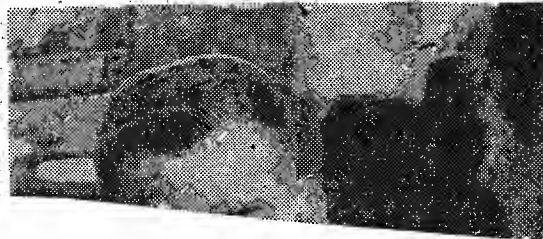
He came into the Kennedy investigation when he told the Warren Commission one "Clay Bertrand" asked him to defend Lee Harvey Oswald when Oswald was accused of shooting JFK.

Garrison contends that Bertrand is an alias for Clay L. Shaw, charged with criminal conspiracy in connection with the slaying. Shaw denies this and Andrews has said he is unable to confirm it.

Andrews refused to take a lie-detector test.

On another front, it was disclosed that Shaw is expected to be released from Southern Baptist Hospital Thursday or Friday. He has been undergoing a checkup.

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Andrews--

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Shaw's physician, Dr. Martin Palmer, said Shaw is "resting well and doing nicely." The 54-year-old retired managing director of the International Trade Mart entered the hospital Saturday, reportedly with a back ailment.

DR. PALMER SAID yesterday that Shaw's back ailment is "much better."

The doctor said over the weekend that Shaw was being treated for recurring back trouble, stemming from an old injury.

One day before he entered the hospital, Shaw was bound over for trial by a three-judge panel, which ruled that the DA had presented enough evidence to warrant trying Shaw for participating in an assassination plot.

SHAW BECAME the first man ordered to trial in the Kennedy assassination.

The ruling came after a tension-jammed four-day hearing. His doctor said that Shaw is getting a much-needed rest by remaining in his hospital room and reading books and magazines and "not looking at television."

When Dean Andrews was suspended by Jefferson DA Frank Langridge, Langridge said it was not a result of any wrongdoing but of notoriety that Andrews' connection with the probe would bring to his office.

A CHECK YESTERDAY of Jefferson records revealed that Andrews nolle prossed four traffic arrests in 1965 of Gordon Novel, a bar owner and electronics manufacturer, who was summoned before the grand jury the same day Andrews was indicted.

Before entering the jury room Thursday, Andrews said Novel, 29, was a "good friend" and "client" of his.

Garrison is expected to file a bill of information sometime this week charging Shaw with participation in an assassination plot.